

# NEW ZEALAND RAIL CONFERENCE

22-23 OCT 2025 | AUCKLAND



Strengthening Rail for New Zealand – Manawaroa (*resilience*), Pono (*reliability*), and Toitū (*sustainability*)

CONFERENCE DAY ONE | Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

*All timings are in New Zealand Daylight Time (NZDT)*

**08:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**

**08:40 Mihi whakatau**

Welcome led by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

**08:50 EVENT OPENING**

Kate Twentyman, *Conference Director*, **Informa Connect**

**08:55 OPENING | Morning Briefing**

Stacey van der Putten, *Director Public Transport and Active Modes*, **Auckland Transport**

**09:00 Speed networking**

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## NZ RAIL LANDSCAPE

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**09:10 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS |**

Peter Reidy, *Chief Executive Officer*, **KiwiRail**

**09:35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Enabling a transport system that connects New Zealand**

Ruth Fairhall, *Acting Secretary for Transport and Chief Executive*, **Ministry of Transport**

**10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS | CRL: Transforming New Zealand's rail network**

Patrick Brockie, *Chief Executive*, **City Rail Link Limited**

**10:25 MINISTERIAL ADDRESS |**

Hon Christopher Bishop, **Minister of Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for RMA Reform, Minister of Transport, Associate Minister for Sports and Recreation, Associate Minister of Finance, Leader of the House and MP for Hutt South**

**10:40 Keynote Address Q & A**

**11:00 Networking and refreshment break**

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## STRENGTHENING RAIL THROUGH COLLABORATION

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**11:30 INTERNATIONAL ADDRESS | Unlocking EU-NZ business opportunities in rail – Building global partnerships**

**11:50 PANEL DISCUSSION | Navigating the complexities of the City Rail Link (CRL) integration**

- Safety case variations for different organisations
- How different parties are working together to mitigate risks



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- Addressing challenges involving integration of track, data, systems, technology, humans, and operations

**Moderated by:** Gini Welch, *National Manager Rail Safety Regulation, Te Rōpu Waeture, New Zealand*

**Transport Agency Waka Kotahi**

Bevan Assink, *City Rail Link Programme Director, KiwiRail*

Lisa D'Oliveira, *General Manager HSQESS, Auckland One Rail*

Thea Hannah, *Manager Rail Licensing, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi*

Gareth Williams, *Rail Safety and Assurance Manager, Auckland Transport*

## 12:30 Lunch and networking break

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### STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

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#### 13:30 **CHIEF ENGINEERS PANEL DISCUSSION** | Engineering tomorrow's resilience, reliability, and safety and capacity

**Moderated by:** Russell McMullan, *General Manager Assurance and Integration, City Rail Link Limited*

Myles Lind, *Chief Engineer, Auckland Transport*

Jarryd Sisley, *General Manager Engineering & Assets, Auckland One Rail*

Chris Wakeling, *Technical Director, KiwiRail*

#### 13:50 **CASE STUDY** | Climate resilience strategy: Adapting to extreme weather challenges

#### 14:10 **Building resilience to extreme weather – KiwiRail's climate adaptation response**

Lucy Hawcroft, *Senior Sustainability Advisor, KiwiRail*

David Jackways, *Engineering Assurance, KiwiRail*

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### STRENGTHENING THE AI IN RAIL: SMART TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

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#### 14:50 **Technology & Innovation Spotlight Session**

#### 15:10 **Networking and refreshment break**

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### STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY & PRODUCTIVITY

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#### 15:35 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | How rail at Ruakura has changed the freight game in the Golden Triangle

**Moderated By:** Dave Christie, *Supply Chain Strategy Director, Tainui Group Holdings*

Peter Phillip, *Country Logistics Manager, Ruakura Supply Chain, Kmart*

Daniel Priscott, *General Manager – Sales, Visy Global Logistics NZ*

#### 16:15 **Productivity and resilience in the export supply chain**

#### 16:45 **NZ Young Rail Professionals Forum**

Informa and the RTSA are hosting a NZ Young Rail Professionals Forum to find out how today's industry leaders have achieved success as they share their tips on how to be a driving force in shaping the future of rail. Attendees are invited to join us for the NZ Rail Exhibition Networking Drinks function after the forum. **The forum is open and free for all young rail professionals aged 35 years and under.**

\*Registrations close Friday 11 October\*

For more information visit: [www.informa.com.au/nzrail](http://www.informa.com.au/nzrail)

#### 17:25 **Closing remarks from the Chair**

08:50 Admin and safety briefing

08:55 **OPENING** | Morning Briefing

09:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | Reflections on land transport regulation in the New Zealand context  
Brent Alderton, *Group General Manager Regulatory & Director of Land Transport*, **NZ Transport Agency**  
**Waka Kotahi**

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#### STRENGTHENING LOCAL, COMMUNITY + BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

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09:25 **MAYORAL ADDRESS** |  
Auckland Council Representative

09:50 **CAMPFIRE SESSION** | **Where do business and community leaders want to see rail go in NZ?**  
**Moderated by:** Stacey van der Putten, *Director Public Transport and Active Modes*, **Auckland Transport**  
Mark Knoff-Thomas, *CEO*, **Newmarket Business Association**  
Viv Beck, *Chief Executive*, **Heart of the City**  
Rupert Hodson, *Executive Director*, **Committee for Auckland**  
Pamela Storey, *Councillor*, **Waikato Regional Council**

10:30 Networking and refreshment break

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#### STRENGTHENING PASSENGER CONNECTIONS

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11:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** | **The big picture: Flagship projects and key insights**  
Dean Kimpton, *Chief Executive*, **Auckland Transport**  
Martin Kearney, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Auckland One Rail**  
Tonia Haskell, *Managing Director*, **Transdev Wellington**  
Barry Fryer, *Programme Director – LNIRIM*, **Metlink**

11:40 **FUTURE PROJECTS UPDATE** | **NZ's future rail pipeline**  
A focus on the future infrastructure pipeline for New Zealand's rail network. How a few key projects can work together as part of a bigger picture to unlock economic growth for both freight and passenger journeys across Aotearoa.  
Gwyneth MacLeod, *General Manager, Metro Investment Strategy*, **KiwiRail**  
Walter Rushbrook, *Programme Director - North Island Investments*, **KiwiRail**

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#### STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY

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12:10 **CASE STUDY** | **Meeting sustainability & decarbonisation challenges**  
Mike Burrell, *Chief Executive*, **Sustainable Business Council**

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#### SIGNALLING THE FUTURE

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12:40 Network resilience reimagined: Transformation through intelligent signalling

13:00 Lunch and networking break



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**13:50 CASE STUDY | The Wellington balancing act: Operating through major rail upgrades**

Fiona Abbott, *Asset and Infrastructure Senior Manager*, **Greater Wellington Regional Council (Metlink)**  
Andy Lyon, *General Manager – Wellington Metro*, **KiwiRail**

**14:10 Driving rail forward: Professional excellence and technological advancement in New Zealand**

Daniel Headifen, *Chair*, **RTSA New Zealand**

**14:25 Engineering smarter Rail: Value engineering the Wiri to Quay Park (3rd Main) Project**

Danny Cox, *National Rail Director*, **Downer Group NZ**

Ryan Brooks, *Project Manager, Wiri to Quay Park (W2QP) Project*, **Downer Group NZ**

**14:40 Networking and refreshment break**

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**STRENGTHENING SAFETY**

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**14:55 PANEL DISCUSSION | The planner's perspective on level crossing removals**

**Moderated by:** Sandi Robertson, *Market Leader – Rail & Mass Transit*, **Stantec**

Jane Small, *Group Manager Rail and Rapid Transit*, **Auckland Transport**

Daniel Headifen, *Programme Director*, **KiwiRail**

Kathryn King, *Regional Manager, Auckland & Northland, System Design*, **New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi**

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**STRENGTHENING MARKET CONFIDENCE**

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**15:35 CLOSING DISCUSSION | Creating infrastructure value for more than one generation**

- Creating a long-term view with future-focused funding & certainty
- Transport pricing and socio-economic benefits of rail vs. roads
- Assessing progress and opportunities for improvement in the MROM
- How can regional rail networks be better integrated into broader infrastructure strategies?

**Moderated by:** Megan Couture, *Senior Associate – Planning*, **BECA & Deputy Chair, Te Kōkiringa Taumata | New Zealand Planning Institute**

Nadine Dodge, *Director Infrastructure Priorities and Evaluation*, **New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga**

Garry Whale, *Group Manager Strategic Performance and Property*, **KiwiRail**

**16:15 Closing remarks from the Chair****16:20 END OF CONFERENCE****NZ RAIL CONFERENCE DINNER |**

**23 October 2025**

**Aotea Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland**

**6:30pm – 10:30pm**

Commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm. Join us to relax and network with industry peers, the perfect opportunity to be informed and inspired.

This unique networking function hosted by Ben Hurley includes presentation of the **Inaugural NZ Rail Excellence Awards**, **TrackSAFE Foundation NZ Award for Safety Leadership** and **Next Generation Conference Scholarships**.



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